

Crossing Paths Overview & Schedule

Soul Matters Curriculum
2022-2023

Crossing Paths is an interfaith exploration curriculum for our 5th through 8th grade religious education students. Through experiential learning, the group will learn about a different religion each month, including a visit to a house of worship and the opportunity to talk to people who practice the religion. As the students are learning about the beliefs, practices, and history of the various faiths, they will also get to explore their own beliefs and values.



Interfaith understanding and conversations are desperately needed in our culture right now. This year of exploration will not only enrich the spiritual lives of your youth, it will empower them to bring healing to the world. In the face of religious perspectives that try to divide, we need voices that help us connect to and celebrate each other. Our deepest aim is to help our youth be those voices.

Many Mountains, Many Paths

Crossing Paths is rooted in religious pluralism. Put simply, this view treats every religion as a unique system. Crossing Paths celebrates each faith's unique aims and ends. Instead of using the metaphor of "One Mountain; Many Paths," Crossing Paths invites us to see the religious landscape as "Many Mountains, Many Paths." This metaphor is central to the curriculum.

There are many hiking metaphors throughout the curriculum as we seek to explore these different religions.

Schedule:

Most Sundays, 10-11:15, downstairs at USNF. Generally, the third week of the month is the visit to a house of worship (the "Summit"). This visit may not take place on a Sunday, depending on the faith.

The first 2 weeks are spent learning about the faith ("Map Sunday") and preparing for the visit ("Tack Sunday") and the last week is a chance to reflect on the learnings ("Lake Sunday").

Family Orientation:

Sunday, September 11, 11:15-12 pm

Registration: <https://forms.gle/ppzhpWDuTtxY8j2T6>

*Class will occasionally take place on a day other than Sunday when there is a visit to a house of worship.

SUNDAY DATE *	Crossing Paths Class
SEP	Orientation/ Unitarian Universalism
11-Sep	Family Orientation - 11:15-12
18-Sep	Unitarian Universalism (Map)
25-Sep	UU (Tack)
OCT	Unitarian Universalism/ Judaism
2-Oct	UU (Visit & Debrief)
9-Oct	Judaism (Map)
16-Oct	Attend USNF service
23-Oct	Judaism (Tack)
NOV	Judaism/ Christianity
30-Oct	Judaism - Visit
6-Nov	Judaism - Debrief
13-Nov	Christianity (Map)
20-Nov	Attend service for all ages
27-Nov	Christianity (Tack)
DEC	Christianity/ Break
4-Dec	Christianity (visit)
11-Dec	Debrief
18-Dec	Attend service for all ages
25-Dec & Jan 1	No class
JAN	Islam
8-Jan	Islam (Map)
15-Jan	Islam (Tack)

	22-Jan	Islam (Visit)
	29-Jan	Islam (Debrief)
FEB		Buddhism
	5-Feb	Buddhism (Map)
	12-Feb	Buddhism (Tack)
	19-Feb	Buddhism (Visit)
	26-Feb	Buddhism (Debrief)
MAR		Paganism
	5-Mar	Paganism (Map)
	12-Mar	Paganism (Tack)
	19-Mar	Paganism (Visit)
	26-Mar	Attend service for all ages
APR		Paganism/ Hinduism
	2-Apr	Paganism (Debrief)
	9-Apr	Hinduism (Map)
	16-Apr	Hinduism (Tack)
	23-Apr	Hinduism (Visit)
MAY		TBD (student choice)
	30-Apr	Hinduism (Debrief)
	7-May	Attend service for all ages
	14-May	TBD (student choice)
	21-May	TBD (student choice)
	28-May	TBD (student choice)
JUN		Wrap Up
	4-Jun	Wrap Up
	11-Jun	Attend service for all ages